

TIME CAPSULE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FORT BEND ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

An affiliate of the Fort Bend History Association

500 Houston Street / Richmond, TX 77469

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August 2019



General Meeting: August 20, 2019. 7PM

Speakers: Ashley Jones

**Topic: Archeological Excavations at
Levi Jordan Plantation**



Starting in the spring of 2018, Coastal Environments, Inc. and Moore Archeological Consulting, Inc. conducted excavations on a cabin block at the Levi Jordan Plantation State Historic Site, located in Brazoria County. The plantation was established in 1848, when Levi Jordan and his son-in-law, James McNeill, arrived in Brazoria County and purchased 2,214 acres along the San Bernard River. The earliest buildings on the property were constructed by McNeill and a few enslaved male workers prior to the arrival of the Jordan-McNeill family. By 1860, there were 134 enslaved persons living in twenty-nine cabins who provided labor for cotton and sugar cane cultivation. After emancipation, approximately 100 former slaves remained as tenant farmers. Previous archeological investigations have been key to understanding the daily life experiences of enslaved and tenant labor at the plantation. Prior to the start of the 2018 excavations, CEI conducted ground penetrating radar (GPR) and magnetometer surveys of the cabin block area, assessing remaining subsurface architecture and identified anomalies near the blocks. This data was then used to plan excavations of Cabin Block 3 and the testing of three anomalies. A total of 13,787 artifacts were collected, including faunal remains, ceramics, personal items, and architectural materials. Jones will provide an overview of the history of the plantation and archeological investigations at the site, information on the architecture that remains at Cabin Block 3, the cultural materials recovered, and how these features and artifacts reflect daily life at Levi Jordan Plantation.

Ashley Jones serves as a Principal Investigator and Project Manager for cultural resource projects. Through her education and career, Ms. Jones has acquired extensive clearance experience on a wide-range of cultural resource projects, including artifact analyses, exploratory testing excavations, and large-scale data recovery excavations. She has completed field investigations in Texas, Oklahoma, Ohio, New Mexico and Arizona. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from The University of Virginia, Charlottesville and a Master of Arts degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio. Ms. Jones currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Houston Archeological Society (HAS). With HAS, she runs a public outreach and education program in northwest Harris County. She is the Diversity Chair for the Houston Chapter of WTS, an international organization that promotes the careers of women in the transportation industry.

Location: Gus George Law Enforcement Academy - 1521 Eugene Heimann Circle, Richmond, Texas.
Everyone is welcome - the program is free and open to the public.



Deep Rooted: Native Texas Plants from the Pleistocene to Present with Dr. Leslie Bush

**Tuesday, October 1, 2019 - 6:30 PM
at Houston Museum of Natural Science**

Texas plants we enjoy today have been used for food, medicine and crafts since the Paleo-Indians. Using written accounts, Native American oral traditions, and archaeological investigations, Dr. Leslie Bush has revealed why five plants in particular have been critical to survival in Texas since 13,000 BC.

Dr. Leslie Bush is a paleoethnobotanist, an archaeologist who specializes in identifying bits of plants preserved on archaeological sites.

This event is co-sponsored by Fort Bend Archeological Society, Houston Archeological Society and The Nature Conservancy, and Houston Museum of Natural Science. Join us as we uncover the connection of archaeology, history and nature. Early bird pricing until 9/24 at the HMNS website.

Members of the sponsoring organizations (FBAS!) receive \$5 off the regular nonmember ticket price via coupon code Lec\$5off at the museum box office or 713.639.4629. (Coupon is not available online.)

PLEASE SHARE THIS WITH YOUR FRIENDS ON FACEBOOK!

Events

Fort Bend Archeological Society & Houston Archeological Society Meetings:

August 15 HAS General Meeting - Cecil Jones: Recent Developments in Conserving and Restoring Historic Properties near the San Jacinto Battleground Historic Site

August 20 FBAS General Meeting - Ashley Jones: Material Culture of Enslaved and Tenant Residents of Cabin Block III, Levi Jordan Plantation (41BO165), Brazoria County, TX

September 17 FBAS General Meeting - Linda Gorski & Louis Aulbach: The Great Unknown of the Rio Grande and Big Bend National Park

September 19 HAS General Meeting - Dub Crook: The Early Archeology and Paleoanthropology of China

October 15 FBAS General Meeting - Gary Pinkerton: Trammel's Trace

November 19 FBAS General Meeting - Joanne Ryan: Arcola Plantation and excavations of antebellum sugar houses

December 17 FBAS Christmas Party and Election of Officers

Meeting Minutes

Minutes from July 16, 2019

The Fort Bend Archeological Society met at the Gus George Academy in Richmond, TX. In attendance were 19 members and 9 guests. The meeting was called to order by Jay Roussel, President, at 7:03pm.

Minutes: Minutes from the April meeting were circulated in the monthly newsletter sent by email and mail to all members. There were no additions or corrections; the minutes stand as approved.

Treasurer's Report: Balance as of July 1, 2019: \$2648.15. The treasurer's report was circulated in the newsletter. There were no additions or corrections; the treasurer's report stands as accepted.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Bruce Grethen reported that investigations going on at the Lamar site with remote censoring picking up geophysical anomalies.
- Jessie Claire Roussel talked about her experience at this year's TAS Field School at Palo Duro Canyon.
- Jay Roussel announced that on July 27 our own Bruce Grethen will be leading a Map & GIS Analysis workshop along with Jay Roussel and Penny Hornsby GIS Administrator with Fort Bend County. Workshop will be held at the Gus George Law Enforcement Academy.

Announcements:

FBAS co-sponsoring Ethnobotany lecture October 1, 2019 6:30pm at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. FBAS members will qualify for a discounted lecture ticket (or free if you are willing to volunteer the day of the event).

Guest speakers Neil Melancon & Emily Egan gave a presentation titled A Deadly Encounter: The Living Sword Culture of Japan.

Next Meeting scheduled for August 20, 2019, 7pm at the Gus George Law Enforcement Academy classroom #3. Guest speaker Ashley E. Jones, R.P.A

Meeting adjourned: 8:00pm

Minutes submitted by: Dottie Allen

Treasurer's Report

FORT BEND ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

August 5, 2019

Balance as of July 1, 2019 **\$2,648.15**

1941	8/5/2019	FBHA	postage for August	5.50
1942	8/5/2019	Brody Gussert	carved trowel for speaker x 2	80.00

Balance as of August 5, 2019 **\$2,562.65**

Submitted by
Claire Rogers, Treasurer

FIELD NOTES

Current Field Site

By the time of our next meeting, we will be able to provide an update on the most recent (and very promising) anomaly.

You won't want to miss it!



Fort Bend Archeological Society
c/o Fort Bend Museum
500 Houston Street
Richmond, TX 77469